

BEFORE THE  
GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF

\*

CASE NO.

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\*

SONYA HALPERN

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22-0166-C

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CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission ("Commission") pursuant to a *sua sponte* Complaint filed by the Commission on December 21, 2022. Now, prior to an administrative hearing on this matter, Sonya Halpern ("Respondent") and the Commission agree to resolve the above-styled matter by a Consent Order under the terms and conditions described herein.

**Findings of Fact**

Respondent is the current State Senator for District 39 and has served in the General Assembly since her election to her current seat in 2021. Respondent filed her Declaration of Intent to run for office on August 8, 2020 and was re-elected to the General Assembly during the 2022 election cycle. During her tenure as a candidate for said office, Respondent has been subject to the filing rules and requirements of the Commission.

Candidates and public officers must file Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports ("CCDR") during their election and non-election years. These disclosure reports list and itemize all the contributions and expenditures made by their campaign so that the public may inspect these documents. In this matter, Respondent failed to file an April 30, 2022 CCDR, June 30, 2022 CCDR, September 30, 2022 CCDR, and an October 25, 2022 CCDR.

Respondent contacted the Commission upon receiving the Complaint and immediately took corrective action to file the missing reports and bring the account into compliance with the Act. Respondent furnished the Commission with relevant documents and was able to bring this matter to a quick resolution.

**Conclusions of Law**

- I. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 when she failed to file an April 30, 2022 CCDR, June 30, 2022 CCDR, September 30, 2022 CCDR, and October 25, 2022 CCDR.

At

### Agreement


In resolving this matter, Respondent hereby agrees to the following:

Respondent agrees to pay to the Commission \$1,500.00 in a civil penalty and \$500.00 in late fees for violating the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act. The civil penalty and late fee totaling \$2,000.00 shall be paid to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission within thirty (30) days of this Order taking effect.

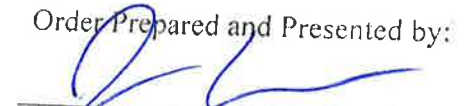
Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of facts are true, agrees with the conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms of this Order. By signing this Order, Respondent, waives any right to appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 *et. seq.*

Failure to comply with the terms herein, absent a showing of good faith, will constitute a willful and knowing violation of said terms by Respondent. Respondent's failure to comply with said terms shall constitute a breach of this agreement and thereby authorize the Commission to seek enforcement action against the Respondent in Superior Court. The parties agree that all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the Commission in any enforcement action shall be assessed against Respondent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C).

The Commission adopts the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law and orders the implementation of the terms of this Consent Order.

  
Sonya Halpern  
Respondent

Order Prepared and Presented by:

  
Joseph M. Cusack  
Deputy Director & General Counsel  
Georgia State Bar No.: 492674

SO ORDERED this 27th day of March, 2023.

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

BY:

  
James D. Kreyenbuhl, Chair